

PART
I.

ART WORK OF


York,
Harrisburg and Lancaster.

PUBLISHED IN NINE PARTS


THE GRAVURE ILLUSTRATION CO

1901.

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SCENE ON THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER.

Harrisburg, Lancaster and York.

Lancaster, York and Harrisburg, the modern, pushing, wealthy cities of to-day, are so filled with memories of the past, so surrounded from their inception with stirring deeds of heroism, hardihood and privation that, in looking up their growth, one is prone to linger, more especially with what has been than with what is now.

We of the present day know our cities well. We know our best hotels, our best theaters, our best stores and streets. We accept our telephones, our trolley roads, our system of electric lighting, our houses with all modern conveniences, as simple accessories to our mode of life. We live for the most part in the present and future, thoroughly satisfied that our ancestors did the best they knew how—and there the matter ends. We go on thinking about the future.

Perhaps once in a while a glimmering idea comes to us, that long ago, these three fair cities were nothing but struggling little hamlets, hidden away in an almost trackless forest.

The thought seldom gets any further; for we immediately begin to wonder what price steel is going to; whether our last consignment of merchandise is coming in on time; or whether we will get in on the ground floor in the wireless telegraphy deal.

The past has much to teach us, if it is only in comparison, if only to show the stock we come from. So let us for a brief time drop our professional and business cares and go back into a past teeming with romanticism and stern reality.

We all know that William Penn was granted certain lands by King Charles the Second of England; that he was a wise and just man in his dealings with the Indians. But many of us do not know that in 1684, just two hundred and seventeen years ago, he bought, through an agent of his—a Col. Dongan, then Governor of the province of New York—the entire Susquehanna valley; and that a deed was given by the Susquehannach (or nock) Indians, which deed was further ratified in 1700.

In 1729 Lancaster County was created from Chester County, and for twenty years embraced the enormous territory extending south and west as far as the limits of the Province of Pennsylvania. York County was taken from it in August, 1749. Then in 1750 it was diminished by the erection of Cumberland. Two years later Berks County took off a slice, as did Northumberland in 1772. Then Dauphin County was taken off entire in 1785; and finally, by the erection of Lebanon County in 1813, Lancaster County was reduced to its present limits.

The histories of York and Dauphin Counties are therefore so much bound up in the history of the mother county that we must start about 1709, where the City of Lancaster now stands, and later on we can blaze a trail into York and Dauphin.

In 1709 the first settlers came into what was then Chester County, and built their rude cabins along a creek called the Little Beaver, and in other places. These first settlers were a sect called Mennonites and came from Switzerland and the Palatinate. This sect, with its divergent branches, still endures today, and apparently has not changed in manners or customs in any way. Shortly after them came the French Huguenots from Alsace and Lorraine. In 1715 the Scotch-Irish began their struggle with the primeval forest; followed by a band of English Quakers. Then came some Welsh Episcopalians; and, later, the Germans and a few Jews. Truly about this time the forest must have become thoroughly cosmopolitan.

By 1728 so many settlers had come into the new territory that complaint was made about the distance to the county seat of Chester County, unquestionably most justly, when one had to ride one hundred miles to have a writ served, and consequently, in 1729, Lancaster County was created.

A county to be a county must have a county seat; and then the trouble began. Three sites were in the field to win or die. These were Gibson's Pasture (Gibson's Tavern or



PENN PARK AND HIGH SCHOOL.—York.



SCENES FROM FORT WASHINGTON. — Near Harrisburg.





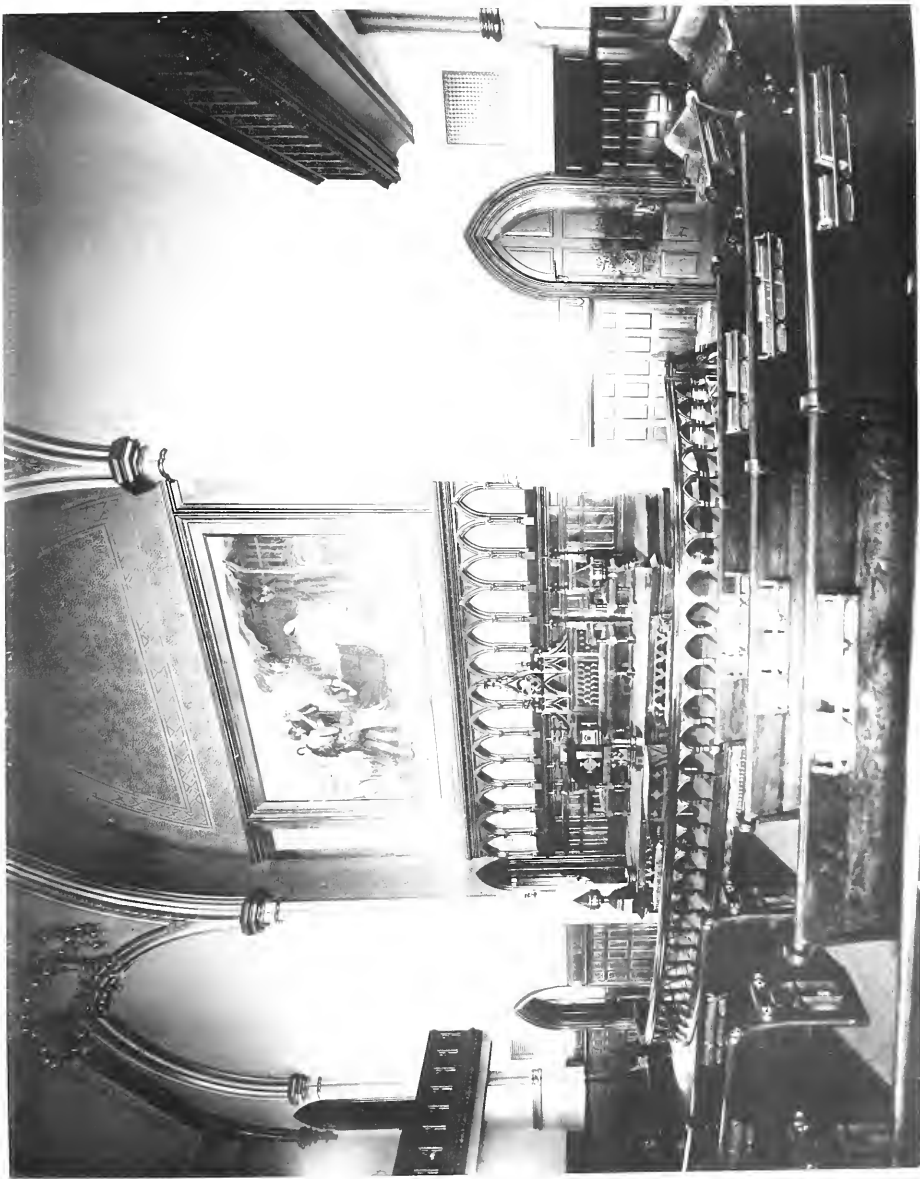
SCENE IN CONESTOGA PARK.—Lancaster.



OUT-DOOR CLUB,—York.



COUNTRY CLUB,—York.



INTERIOR OF GRACE METHODIST CHURCH.—Harrisburg.



SCENE FROM WITMER'S BRIDGE.—Lancaster.



WITMER'S BRIDGE.—Lancaster.



SCENE ON EAST LINDEN AVENUE.—York.



SCENE ON SOUTH GEORGE STREET.—York.

